Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of the above amendments and the remarks set forth below. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 13- 20 and 22 remain in the application. Claims 1-3 and 13-20 are amended. Claims 4, 7-12 and 21 are canceled. Claims 5, 6 and 22 remain unchanged.

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 9 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kitagawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,539). For a reference to anticipate a claimed invention, each and every element of the claim must be found in the reference.

Claim 1, as amended, requires "A method of reducing a column clock time in a liquid crystal display, comprising the steps of...buffering a pixel row...detecting if the buffered pixel row has all unused pixels...driving all pixels on a corresponding imager row to black simultaneously if the buffered pixel row has all unused pixels...and...transferring the buffered pixel row to the corresponding imager row if the buffered pixel row has used pixels." Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in original claim 21 and on page 4 of Applicant's application.

Kitagawa appears to be directed towards a method and system for supplying a black signal independently from video signals such that a user's adjustment of the brightness of a displayed active video region 36 will not affect the black level of a blank video region 37. More specifically, Kitagawa teaches acquiring a SYNC signal to determine the resolution of a received video signal. Once the resolution (i.e., XGA, SVGA or VGA) is determined, a timing generator 4 controls the operation of a main-driver 1, a sub-driver 2, a vertical scanning circuit 33, a horizontal scanning circuit 34, and an auxiliary scanning circuit 35 such that active video

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36 and blank video 37 is displayed in accordance with the detected resolution. (Figs. 1&2; Col. 4, lines 1-58).

As a result, it appears that Kitigawa does not appear to disclose or even suggest the "buffering a pixel row...detecting if the buffered pixel row has all unused pixels...driving all pixels on a corresponding imager row to black simultaneously if the buffered pixel row has all unused pixels...and...transferring the buffered pixel row to the corresponding imager row if the buffered pixel row has used pixels" limitations of amended claim 1. Since claim 1 contains at least one element that is missing from Knox et al., Applicants respectfully propose that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Dependent claims 2, 3 and 6, being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Independent claim 13 is amended to include elements similar to the elements of amended independent claim 1 and should therefore be allowable for the same reasons discussed above as well as for the additional recitations contained therein. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Dependent claim 14, being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 13, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that it contains. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Independent claim 15 is amended to include elements similar to the elements of amended independent claim 1 and should therefore be allowable for the same reasons discussed above as well as for the additional recitations contained therein. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Dependent claims 16-20 , being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 15, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitagawa in view of Fairbanks et al. (U.S. Patent no. 5,130,703). Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and should therefore be allowable for the same reasons as discussed for claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitagawa in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent no. 5,965,907). Claim 22 depends from claim 15 and should therefore be allowable for the same reasons as discussed for claim 15. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.
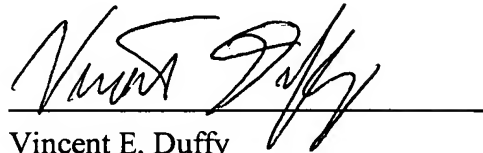
Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at (317) 587-4019, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fees, other than those discussed above, are believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Vincent E. Duffy
      Reg. No. 39,964
      Phone (317) 587-4019

Patent Operations
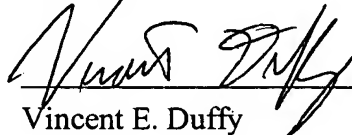
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April 14, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

4/14/04

date   Vincent E. Duffy